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DE RUEHLO #0348/01 0401508
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 091508Z FEB 09
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1324
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 LONDON 000348

NOFORN
SIPDIS

EO 12958 DECL: 02/06/2019
TAGS PGOV, PREL, MCAP, EUN, PINS, UK
SUBJECT: THE BRITISH ASK, IS OUR SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP STILL
SPECIAL IN WASHINGTON?

REF: LONDON 266

Classified By: Charge Richard LeBaron for reasons 1.4(b/d).

1. (C/NF) Summary. Secretary Clinton's public praise for the U.S.-UK special relationship following her February 3 meeting with Foreign Secret
2. (C/NF) Summary and comment con't. Downing Street and the most senior levels at Whitehall never shared the level of anxiety over the future
More Speculation than Usual

3. (C/NF) Every U.S. Presidential inauguration sets off debate at British think tank seminars and on UK editorial pages about the sustainabili
"He's Just Not That Into Us"

4. (C/NF) For many UK pundits, a break in the special relationship will come because of the new U.S. President's personal history. Several con
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his approach to the UK. His relative youth (which gives him no historical experience of the WWII and Cold War alliance with London), his format
A Fearful UK Wonders What It Brings to the Table

5. (C/NF) For more serious observers, however, and quite a few of the Embassy's official and parliamentary interlocutors, the reasons to worry

6. (C/NF) Michael Fabricant, a Tory MP and strong supporter of a close U.S. alliance, summed up these fears when he told Poloff that the UK's
U.S. Criticisms of UK Military Sting As Well

7. (C/NF) Also sparking concern on this side of the Atlantic are perceived U.S. criticisms of the value of the UK military contributions in Af
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a growing feeling (in the U.S.), especially in the Pentagon, that Britain can't be relied on" no matter how many additional troops it may offer
Looking for Signals and Reading Tea Leaves

8. (C/NF) British media and contacts are busy over-reading perceived signals for evidence of tensions in the relationship. This over-reading v
Does Downing Street Share These Concerns?

9. (C/NF) Downing Street and senior levels in Whitehall never shared this level of anxiety about the future of the relationship under an Obama

10. (C/NF) Despite these clear signals from the new Administration, the strength of the special relationship still has traction for the UK mec
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golden age of bilateral cooperation are themselves a potential threat to the relationship. John Spellar, a senior Labour MP and government whip
Comment: Those Who Know the Relationship Know Its Strength

11. (C/NF) Though tempting to argue that keeping HMG off balance about its current standing with us might make London more willing to respond
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